

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, Your prophets and leaders in the Hebrew Scriptures, as well as the disciples in the Christian Scriptures, all knew friendship. In and with associates and friends, they accomplished Your will and served Your people.

May friendships flourish here in the House of Representatives. Because friends hold us accountable and sustain us in difficult times, these men and women of Congress need such supportive relationships.

Bless their work and may their debate and endeavors bring them to deeper understandings and create respected friendships.

This we ask of You, O Lord, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. FOLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

DISPENSING WITH CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2003

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

COMMENDING THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 66) commending the National Endowment for Democracy for its contributions to democratic development around the world on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 66

Whereas November 22, 2003, marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy (hereinafter the "Endowment"), a bipartisan non-governmental institution that promotes democracy around the world;

Whereas through the National Endowment for Democracy Act (22 U.S.C. 4411 et seq.), signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on November 22, 1983, Congress has made possible the funding of the Endowment's worldwide grant programs;

Whereas 2003 also marks the 20th anniversary of the National Republican Institute for International Affairs (which was subsequently renamed the International Republican Institute (IRI)), the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), and the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), all of which joined the Free Trade Union Institute (which was subsequently renamed as the American Center for International Labor Solidarity) to form the four affiliated institutions of the Endowment;

Whereas the Endowment and the affiliated institutes have supported grassroots programs to build democratic institutions, spread democratic values, encourage free market institutions, and promote political parties, worker rights, independent media, human rights, the rule of law, civic education, conflict resolution, political participation by women, and many other essential components of civil society and democratic governance in emerging and transitional democracies, nondemocracies, and war-torn societies;

Whereas the programs carried out or funded by the Endowment have made significant contributions to the efforts of democratic activists to achieve freedom and self-governance around the world;

Whereas the Endowment, through the Journal of Democracy, the International Forum for Democratic Studies, the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program, and the World Movement for Democracy, has served as a key center of democratic research, exchange, and networking, bringing together thousands of democracy activists, scholars, and practitioners from around the world; and

Whereas the spread of democracy throughout the world, to which the work of the Endowment has contributed significantly, has enhanced the national security interests of the United States and advanced democratic ideals and values throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the National Endowment for Democracy for its major contributions to the strengthening of democracy around the world on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Endowment; and

(2) endeavors to continue to support the vital work of the National Endowment for Democracy.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ECONOMY IS IMPROVING

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be back in Washington here on a Monday and obviously reflect on the past week, and hope that we have seen some brighter economic news emerging: The Dow Jones Industrial Average, the NASDAQ, unemployment numbers dropping slightly. Even though we are still concerned about unemployment, we are making progress.

Some of the other intrinsic things that we can judge the economy by are starting to show real signs of progress. Numbers of companies reporting record earnings, improved performance, back order of supplies in inventory diminishing, which is all pointing us in the right direction that this President and Congress has delivered an economic package, a tax incentive package that is starting to stimulate, albeit slowly, the economy back into a performing economic model.

We have more to do, and the Committee on Ways and Means will start debating next week opportunities to create jobs here in this country by providing the economic and tax incentives for corporations to remain here in the United States, producing jobs, providing incomes and hopefully financial stability for Americans everywhere. So we will be reporting that bill out next week, bringing it to the floor hopefully with the cooperation of both the Democrats and Republicans to assure that we have the kind of economic job producing model that will create the incentives for our citizens to once again return to the active workforce and create the kind of economies that are so vitally important to this Nation.

So I want to salute our committee, particularly the Committee on Ways and Means, for undertaking what will be a very difficult task. There are a lot of people who would be opposed to any tax relief whatsoever, but if they look at the significance and substance of this bill, they will see this is, in fact, earmarking to create jobs, manufacturing jobs to States like North Carolina and Georgia and Pennsylvania and, of course, the high-tech corridor in California.

So all of these things are important, the debate is important, and so I join with my colleagues in saluting in particular this President, saluting our efforts in Iraq. Our prayers are with our troops there as we continue to liberate Iraqis from the grips of Saddam Hussein. It has been difficult. We have had loss of lives, but at the same time, if we look at the progress we have made, we will see that we are starting to find great solutions to the problem in Iraq.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair